

numerous and very rich and, moreover, are in the habit of doing their work in "ways that are dark"; indeed, they naturally shun the light. For the first time in the history of this country, a considerable number of physicians have gotten together in the formation of medical societies and in supporting the American Medical Association. For the first time in our history it is possible for any considerable number of us to know what is being done and to participate in any particular kind of work or undertaking. So long as that condition remains, so long as the American Medical Association and our component state and county medical societies remain strong and active, the members taking an intelligent interest in what is going on for or against their best interests and those of their patients, just so long will the fight for decency, honesty, and truth be a successful fight. The hope of the man whose profit is in dishonesty, is that discord may be brought about. With a profession divided into warring units, he can succeed; with a profession united in harmonious societies, all working for the common good and the public benefit, he can do nothing—he is forced to be honest or quit. Let no innuendo blind you to the actual facts and the truth in this whole matter. . . .

*From an article on "Diet in Disease" by George K. Abbott, M.D., Loma Linda.*

The wide difference of opinion, not only among the laity but also among the members of the medical profession, in regard to the natural and best dietary in health has given rise to so many theories and dietetic fads that it is not possible to come to any conclusion as to a proper dietary by the consideration of such. . . .

*From an article on "Proprietary Medicines and Their Abuses" by George Dock, M.D., Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

Proprietary medicines are substances which someone has an exclusive right to make or sell for medicinal purposes. The exclusive right may depend on secret methods of manufacture, or on patent on the method of preparation, as in Germany, or on process and substance both, as in America, or on a copyright on the substance. . . .

*From an article on "A Medical Library for San Francisco" by Douglass W. Montgomery, M.D.*

All who love medical literature and the advancement of medicine in this city wish to see the most made of the fine gift of the late Levi C. Lane's widow. That a combination of the County Medical Society's Library and the Lane Library would form a larger, finer foundation than either of them separately, there can be no doubt; but the start must be made properly or the combination will end in failure, and less will be gained than if such a coalition had never been attempted.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

By GILES S. PORTER, M. D.

Director

**Mortality in 1930.**—An analysis of deaths that occurred in California during 1930 reveals interesting data relative to the trend of mortality in some of the major causes. A total of 66,178 deaths were registered in this state last year. Of these deaths, 16,176 or almost 25 per cent were due to diseases of the circulatory system; more than 15 per cent of all deaths, 7195, were due to cancer and 6394 were due to diseases of the nervous system. Last year, for the first time, deaths from diseases of the nervous system exceeded deaths from tuberculosis in California, of which there were 5629 recorded. More than half of all deaths (53.5 per cent) were due to the four causes

mentioned above—diseases of the circulatory system, cancer, diseases of the nervous system and tuberculosis.

Diseases of the respiratory system claimed 4895 lives, and deaths from nephritis totaled 4813. There were 4460 deaths from diseases of the digestive system and deaths from external causes exclusive of automobile deaths, totaled 3169. Epidemic diseases caused 2793 deaths, and deaths from other general diseases totaled 2655. There were 2573 deaths from early infancy and malformations, and 2356 automobile deaths. There were 1509 suicides. Deaths from non-venereal genito-urinary causes were 914; the total number of deaths from puerperal causes reached 443. Deaths from senility were only 204.

The increasing number of deaths from cancer and diseases of the nervous system provides interesting material for study. The number of deaths from these two causes totaled 13,589, as compared with 16,176 deaths from diseases of the circulatory system. It would appear that there may be a possibility of these two causes, together, eventually displacing the lead which deaths from diseases of the circulatory system have always maintained. The decreasing number of deaths from tuberculosis is conspicuous. The total deaths from this cause in 1930 constituted but 8.5 per cent of the total number of deaths from all causes.

The increasing number of automobile deaths is receiving a great deal of attention. It is interesting to note that more than 40 per cent of all deaths from external causes last year were due to automobile deaths. Deaths in the industries do not occur as frequently as they did in former years, and it would appear that automobile deaths may soon constitute the major portion of all deaths from external causes. The relatively few number of deaths from epidemic diseases, 2793, indicates that efforts exerted in their control have not been in vain. The large number of deaths from suicides constitutes a problem for sociologists and mental hygienists. The increasing number of suicides each year indicates that there may be need for the application of some remedy, undiscovered as yet, to prevent the increase in the number of deaths from this cause.

**Typhoid Fever Reported.**—A considerable number of cases of typhoid fever, contracted through drinking water from contaminated streams, have been reported in California this summer. A special investigation within the river area of Sacramento County revealed the fact that twenty-six persons who had contracted typhoid fever had been drinking raw river water or had been swimming in the Sacramento or American rivers.

Along the San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz County ten cases of typhoid fever have been reported during the summer months. The exact source of infection has not been determined, but it is probable that swimming in the polluted San Lorenzo River is responsible for the infection.

Discharge of sewage from the Boulder Creek district into the San Lorenzo River has been discontinued. Sewage in the future will be disposed of on the premises of each individual owner by means of septic tanks or cesspools. In making this change 101 septic tanks and cesspools have been provided. Practically all improvements with reference to sewage disposal on premises situated adjacent to the San Lorenzo River and its tributaries have been completed. The citizens of Brookdale are now making arrangements to install a new sewer system under the State Act.

**Cold Storage Investigation.**—During the past month an investigation was undertaken to determine how the Cold Storage Act is being observed with respect to the requirement that persons owning articles of food in storage for one year must have a permit from the State Department of Public Health in order to obtain an extension of the storage period. The investigation

revealed the fact that considerable amounts of food-stuffs had been in storage for twelve months. Correspondence with the owners of the products has resulted in compliance with the regulation pertaining to obtaining permits for the extension of the storage periods.

At the end of the quarter, June 30, 1931, there were held in cold storage in California warehouses nearly ten million pounds of fresh fruit; more than six million pounds of vegetables; nearly six million pounds of meat; three and one-fourth million pounds of poultry; nearly four million pounds of dried, frozen and preserved fruit; two million pounds of fish; nearly one and one-half million pounds of citrus fruits; two and three-fourths million pounds of cheese; two and three-fourths million pounds of butter; six and three-fourths million pounds of eggmeat; and one and one-fourth million cases of eggs.

## BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.  
Secretary

### Special Notice—In Re Narcotic Prescriptions

Again we urge licentiates to read carefully the pink narcotic warning insert page in each directory published annually by the Board of Medical Examiners, a copy of which is sent to each licentiate. Recently two licentiates in northern California have illegally prescribed large quantities of morphin for an addict based solely on his claim of disability unconfirmed by a physical examination. Reports tell of a woman recently operating in northern California who appears in a physician's office with a small boy in need of a tonsillectomy. Arrangements are made for operation, she then relates her blind father is suffering from angina pectoris, and several doctors have illegally given her a prescription for narcotics to relieve the mythical father.

Reports relate that an alleged narcotic addict recently obtained from a Vallejo physician, over a period of thirteen months, 3475 grains of morphin. This addict is visiting physicians, and presents a statement certifying that he is suffering from cancer of the stomach, diagnosis confirmed by x-ray examination at the San Francisco Hospital followed by two operations, also treatment at the Southern Pacific Hospital, San Francisco. However, the claims of malignancy or cancer in any form are unsubstantiated by the hospital records. This individual admitted that he is a narcotic addict, and, according to his own statement, he has been supplying his wife and two of his brothers, all of whom are addicts.

*Don't be fooled by stories of transient individuals seeking narcotics.*

*Don't prescribe narcotics based on presentation of a letter referring to alleged infirmities, which may be forged.*

*Don't prescribe for addiction unless the individual is under treatment in an institution.*

*Don't heed a plea for a small supply of morphin to help out until an asserted near-by destination can be reached.*

### News Items, December 1931

"Dr. P. T. Phillips of Santa Cruz today was elected to his fifteenth consecutive term as president of the State Board of Medical Examiners. At the same time Dr. Charles B. Pinkham, San Francisco, was named to serve his nineteenth term as secretary. Dr. Harry V. Brown, Glendale, was elected vice-president to succeed Dr. William Molony, Los Angeles, whose term has expired" (Sacramento *Bee*, October 20, 1931).

On September 5, 1929, the articles of incorporation of the "Cale College of Chiropractic," Los Angeles, were amended, making its name the "Southern California College of Chiropractic." On October 6, 1931, the articles were further amended, changing its name to the "College of Chiropractic Physicians and Surgeons." A recent opinion rendered by the Attorney General to the Board of Chiropractic Examiners holds that graduates of this institution should be admitted to examination provided they actually teach chiropractic and meet the schedule of minimum educational requirements set forth in Section 5 of the Chiropractic Initiative, and it is further recommended that the Board of Chiropractic Examiners, when licensing a graduate of any institution having this or a similar name, expressly advise such licensee that his license only authorizes him to practice chiropractic, and does not authorize him to practice as a physician or (and) surgeon.

The "Za Alchemists Herbalist College," Los Angeles, has been added to the list of corporations issuing diplomas in this state. Their diploma relates that it has been issued after the completion of "the full course of instructions in herbal histology, physiology, plant affinity, the ancient religious shepherds' mystic secret doctrine," and the holder "is deemed by us fully qualified in this beneficent therapy."

The eyesight swindlers are again operating in California, according to a report made by Mrs. J. M. Monroe, Westminster, Orange County, who relates that an individual giving the name of Dr. L. Eldridge, claiming to be from the "St. Francis Clinic, 1411 South Spring Street, Los Angeles" (although Spring Street ends at Ninth), recently mulcted her out of a small sum of money by the old radium drop method described in the pamphlet "Eyesight Swindlers" published by the secretary of the Board of Medical Examiners. Mrs. Monroe is reported to have instantly identified from said pamphlet the picture of Simon Mohr as the individual who posed as Dr. L. Eldridge.

"The license of Dr. George Gillespie, San Francisco chiropractor convicted of second degree murder last June as a result of a fatal illegal operation, today had been revoked by the State Board of Medical Examiners" (San Francisco *Call-Bulletin*, October 21, 1931). Both the drugless practitioner certificate and the certificate to practice chiropody held by Doctor Gillespie were revoked.

Reports relate that Guy N. E. Grosse, licensed chiropractor on October 1, 1931, pleaded guilty in the Justice Court of Santa Cruz to violation of the Medical Practice Act, judgment being suspended on condition that he no further violate the law.

Reports relate that the Appellate Division of the Superior Court in San Francisco recently affirmed the verdict of the Municipal Court of that city which fined Arthur J. Green \$100 on a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act.

Reports relate that A. E. Harland in the Municipal Court of the City of Los Angeles pleaded guilty on October 13, 1931, to a charge of violating the Medical Practice Act and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$100 or serve ten days in the city jail, sentence being suspended on condition that he no longer violate the provisions of the Medical Practice Act.

"Carl C. Lee, Chinese herb specialist, today appealed his conviction in Justice Court on a charge of practicing medicine without a license to the Superior Court. The notice of appeal was made by Attorney